

# Wang and Parker Bringing Across the Divide to SWOSU

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Xiaomiao Wang and Todd Parker, assistant professors in the SWOSU Department of Art, recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council to fund the “Across the Divide” art exhibition and symposium on the Weatherford campus. The exhibition of artwork by a group of Chinese artists will come to SWOSU on January 9 through February 6, 2014.

Xiaomiao Wang and Todd Parker, assistant professors in the Department of Art at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, recently received a \$5,000 grant to fund an art exhibition and symposium on the Weatherford campus.

The “Across the Divide” exhibition and symposium will take place January 9 to February 6, 2014, at SWOSU.

The grant was funded by the Oklahoma Humanities Council (OHC), which is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The “Across the Divide” exhibition features the artwork of a group of Chinese artists, each of whom received their graduate education in the United States and now teach studio art in universities across the country. These artists have used their experiences from both China and America to inspire their artistic creativity and their teaching methods in the classroom.

A symposium to accompany the exhibition will also be offered on the SWOSU campus. This will be composed of a lecture by the artists and a panel discussion about their cultural and social experiences. In particular, audiences will learn how art plays a role in representing cultural identities and history and will also see how Chinese culture shows itself in contemporary art.

The first “Across the Divide” exhibition and symposium were held in 2003 at California State University, Long Beach, with artwork represented by 14 Chinese artists. Since then, the “Across the Divide” exhibition and symposium have been hosted by several universities across the country. In addition to the SWOSU stop, the exhibition will travel to Missouri State University and Oklahoma State University.

Wang is the faculty sponsor of the SWOSU exhibition, and Parker is the exhibition coordinator.

The event is made possible by OHC. The mission of OHC is to promote meaningful public engagement with the humanities disciplines, such as history, literature, philosophy and ethics.